

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 AID-20 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 241000Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7407

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: WEEKEND INCIDENTS IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS

FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON DAO SAIGON USSAG NKP SEP 24
FROM NHA TRANG REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0847

1. ACCORDING TO INCOMPLETE INFORMATION WHICH HAS JUST REACHED THE CONSULATE GENERAL, THE GVN OUTPOST OF PLEI DJERENG, PLEIKU PROVINCE, (YA 875.458) WAS OVERRUN AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED OVER THE WEEKEND. THE MAIN ACTION TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, SEPT 22, AFTER WHICH CONTACT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 80TH RANGER BN, WHO WERE DEFENDING THE OUTPOST, WAS LOST. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, HOWEVER, SHOWS PLEI DJERENG CAMP TO BE TOTALLY DESTROYED AND SPOTTED 8 ENEMY TANKS SITTING ON THE AIRSTRIP NEAR THE CAMP. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THIS TIME RE THE FATE OF THE DEFENDERS OR LOSSES BY THE ENEMY.

2. ALSO ON SATURDAY, SEPT 22 AT 1115 OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE IN DARLAC REPORTS THAT AN ESTIMATED VC COMPANY (POSSIBLY ELEMENTS OF THE 304TH NVA SAPPER BN) ATTACKED A 4 TRUCK CONVOY ON QL 14 NORTH OF BAN ME THUOT AT AQ 987.418 AND AQ 994.410.

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REPORTEDLY 6 VC WERE KILLED, WHILE THE GVN LOST 1 KIA AND

2 WIA IN ADDITION TO ONE TRUCK 100 PERCENT DESTROYED AND ANOTHER 10 PERCENT DAMAGED. MORE IMPORTANTLY QL 14 HAS BEEN CUT SINCE 1115 SATURDAY AND REMAINS CLOSED TO THIS WRITING. HOWEVER, 3 GVN BATTALIONS ARE NOW ON THE SCENE AND THE ROAD MAY BE REOPENED SHORTLY.

3. THIS MORNING, SEPT 24, OUR DAO REPRESENTATIVE IN PLEIKU REPORTED, INTER ALIA, THAT PLEI BLANG 3 (ZA 167.473) WAS BEING SHELLED. PLEI BLANG 3 IS ABOUT K KILOMETERS DUE WEST OF PLFTCU CITY.

4. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THESE INCIDENTS ARE CONNECTED IN ANY WAY AND, AS YET, WE HAVE FEW DETAILS. HOWEVER, WE ARE WATCHING CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT FURTHER IF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPS. SIGNED SPEARE UNQUOTE
APPLING

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